

Media Alert

The Alaska Coastal Habitat Protection Team will receive a Coastal America Spirit Award on Monday, October 14, 2003 in Anchorage, Alaska.

The U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service's Alaska Coastal Program is partnering with Alaska's four coastal land trusts in support of their efforts to collaborate with willing landowners to conserve important wildlife habitat in coastal Alaska. These land trusts work with willing public and private partners who wish to voluntarily conserve important natural ecosystems, open space near cities and towns, signature landscapes, and waters essential to a sustainable way of life and economic health. The outreach provided and the nationally competitive grants received for projects developed through this public-private partnership are allowing landowners to achieve their goals of protecting more than 2,000 acres of land for their families and for a diversity of coastal-dependent wildlife species. Among these projects is the protection of urban Anchorage's Fish Creek Estuary and Juneau's Herbert River Wetlands, both of which provide invaluable wildlife habitat and receive wide recreational use.

The following individuals and organizations were recognized:

John DeLapp, US Fish & Wildlife Service

Mike Roy, US Fish & Wildlife Service

Neil Stichert, US Fish & Wildlife Service

The Great Land Trust

Kachemak Heritage Land Trust

Nushagak/Mulchatna – Wood/Tikchik Land Trust

Southeast Alaska Land Trust